

South West Metropolitan Region

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**Royal Earlswood**  
...  
**Hospital Management Committee**

GROUP 43



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ANNUAL REPORT

1949

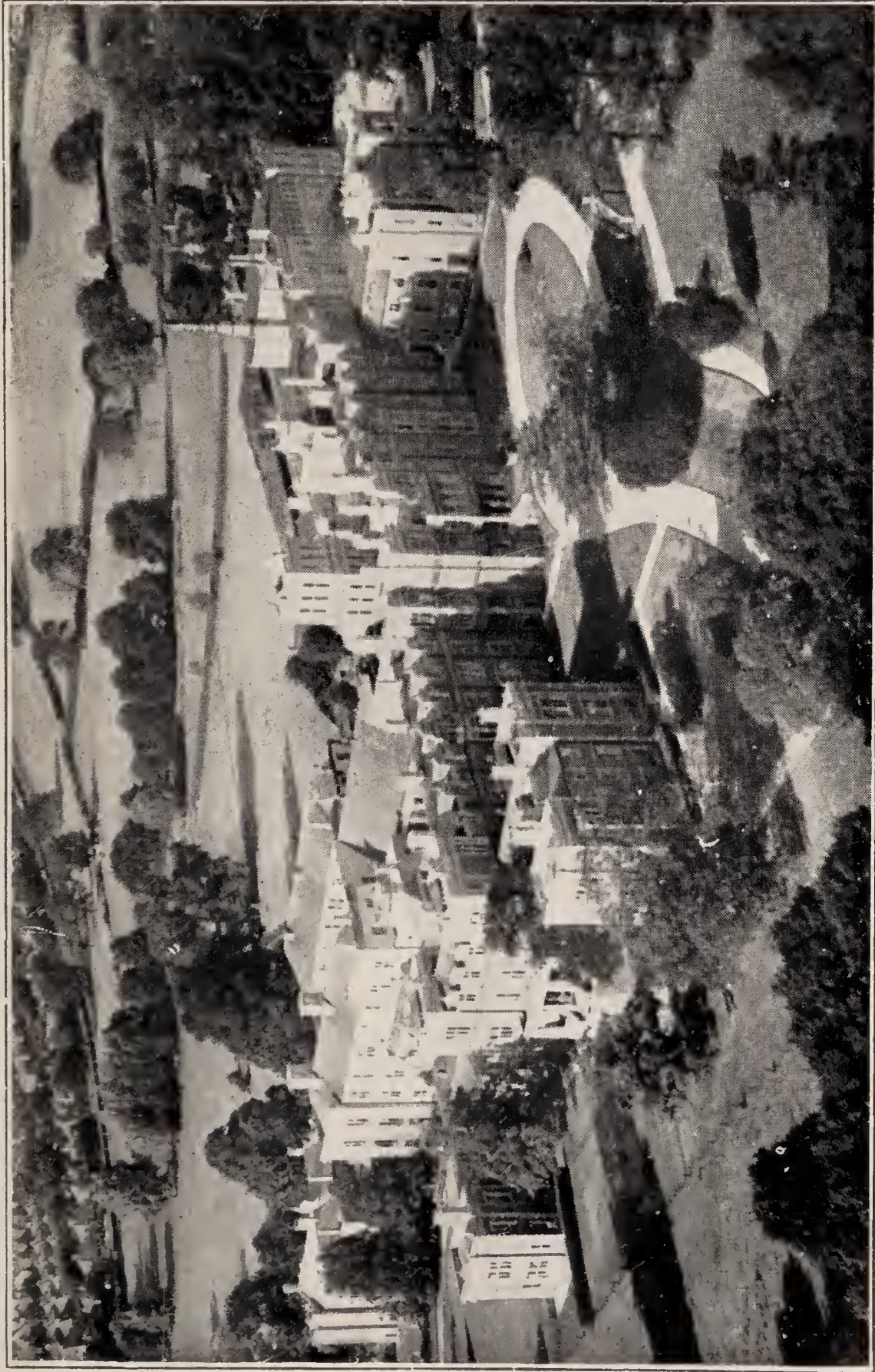
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UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING



AERIAL VIEW OF THE ROYAL EARLSWOOD INSTITUTION SHOWING A PORTION OF THE GROUNDS



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*Medical Superintendent :*

HENRY ROBB FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M.

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*Secretary of the Management Committee :*

Mr. H. STEPHENS, F.H.A.

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# ANNUAL REPORT, 1949

The last Report of the Royal Earlswood Institution was published in April, 1948. At that time the Institution was a self-supporting charity administered by a Board of Governors, but on the 5th July, 1948, under the National Health Service Act of 1946, the Institution ceased to be such, and from that date became a hospital under the administration of the Ministry of Health. Notwithstanding this change in the constitution of the Institution, it has been thought desirable to continue to place on record for the information of the general public the activities and progress of the Royal Earlswood, and the Institutions now associated with it.

It is intended that this Report should review the work of the year 1949, the first full year under the National Health Service, but as no report was issued for 1948, some remarks will be made for the months of July to December, 1948 in order to preserve continuity.

On the 5th July, 1948 the Royal Earlswood Institution became the parent unit in Group 43 in the South West Metropolitan Region, the Management Committee acting as agents for the Regional Hospital Board who, in their turn, are under the direction of the Ministry of Health. In this Group was included "Farmfield" at Horley, Surrey, an institution formerly under the London County Council, for the treatment of delinquent mental defectives. During 1949 the Forest Hospital at Horsham was added as ancillary to the Royal Earlswood Institution. This hospital had formerly been a "Public Assistance" institution under the West Sussex County Council, but during the war years had fallen into considerable disrepair and at present is capable of accommodating only a limited number of patients. The patients at the take-over numbered 58 mental defectives and 25 aged sick. It was felt that to remove the old people would entail much hardship, and accordingly they have remained, but are segregated as far as the resources of the Hospital permit. The wards which were used for infirm and aged sick require considerable

adaptation before being suitable for the care of mental defectives. One villa is now being converted to accommodate 29 female defectives and when completed will be a welcome addition to the resources of the Group.

Prior to July, 1948 the Board of Management selected patients suitable for admission to Earlswood; and, provided the standard of care satisfied the Ministry of Health advisers, that was the extent of responsibility.

Soon after the inauguration of the National Health Service, the South West Metropolitan Regional Board allocated spheres of influence to the Earlswood Group. Earlswood became responsible for dealing with all defectives requiring institutional care in the County of West Sussex. In conjunction with the Manor Hospital, Epsom, Earlswood was required to deal with admissions from East Surrey, and in October, 1949 to assist with the problem in the County Borough of Croydon. Farmfield was reserved for London cases only. It soon became evident that there was much distress in these areas arising from defectives residing at home but beyond the control of their parents. A special effort had to be made, and this is reflected in the greater number of patients cared for to-day.

The day-to-day management of the Group has been entrusted by the Regional Hospital Board to a Hospital Management Committee, and the members appointed thereto are mostly former governors of the old Board of the Royal Earlswood Institution. In consequence of this it has been possible to carry on the traditions and atmosphere of the 100 year old foundation. The Committee conceived it to be their duty to safeguard these features to the utmost and have given unstinted co-operation with those objects in view, with the result that the health and welfare of the patients have been fully maintained.

The Committee are fortunate in that the Regional Hospital Board re-appointed Dr. H. R. Ferguson as Medical Superintendent, a post which he filled under the old Board of Governors with such conspicuous



success. He is responsible for the general management of the Royal Earlswood Institution and the Forest Hospital, and also acts as Medical Officer for Farmfield. Mr. S. E. Dudley, who continues as the Lay Superintendent of Farmfield, is responsible for that Institution—each of these officers being subject to such directions as may be given by the Hospital Management Committee or the Regional Hospital Board.

As the treatment and maintenance of the patients are now provided at public cost, there is no longer any necessity to appeal to the charitably minded public for funds to carry out the work, but any gifts or legacies which may be received may be devoted to the Amenity Fund, which provides additional comforts and various forms of recreation for the patients within the Group.

During the war years and subsequently, all capital expenditure involving structural additions, alterations and the like has been kept at the barest minimum, but efforts have been made during the year under review to over-take these arrears as far as possible.

Attached to the Royal Earlswood Institution are farms for the conduct of which the Hospital Management Committee are responsible. They comprise 160 acres arable, 130 acres of pasture land and 4 acres market garden. The Commercial herd of dairy cattle has been sold. A herd of attested Friesian cattle is being installed.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the very efficient services rendered by all sections of the staff, both indoor and outdoor. They have given of their best to overcome difficulties inherent in the transition from a charitable foundation to a State-owned Institution. A special debt is due to Dr. Ferguson for the zeal and ability which, in spite of his greatly increased responsibility, he continues to exercise for the benefit of the patients and staff.

W. G. LEVANDER,

*Chairman.*



## MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

As this is my first report since the inauguration of the National Health Service it is intended to review the period from the 5th July, 1948 to 31st December, 1949.

The following tables show the admissions and discharges :—

|  |    |    |    | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> | <i>T.</i> |
|--|----|----|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| In residence on 5th July, 1948               | .. |    |    | 366       | 186       | 552       |
| Admissions                                   | .. | .. | .. | 7         | 2         | 9         |
|  |    |    |    | 373       | 188       | 561       |
| Discharges..                                 | .. | .. | .. | 1         | 1         | 2         |
| Deaths                                       | .. | .. | .. |           | 1         | 1         |
| In residence on 31st December, 1948          |    |    |    | 372       | 186       | 558       |
| Admissions                                   | .. | .. | .. | 43        | 23        | 66        |
|  |    |    |    | 415       | 209       | 624       |
| Discharges..                                 | .. | .. | .. | 18        | 9         | 27        |
| Deaths                                       | .. | .. | .. | 11        | 3         | 14        |
| In residence on 31st December, 1949          |    |    |    | 386       | 197       | 583       |
| FOREST HOSPITAL.                             |    |    |    | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> | <i>T.</i> |
| In residence on 1st January, 1949..          |    |    |    | 38        | 23        | 61        |
| Admissions                                   | .. | .. | .. | 17        | 6         | 23        |
|  |    |    |    | 55        | 29        | 84        |
| Discharges                                   | .. | .. | .. | 6         | 4         | 10        |
| In residence on 31st December, 1949          |    |    |    | 49        | 25        | 74        |
| In addition there are 18 resident aged sick. |    |    |    |           |           |           |

### STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS.

A new sanitary block has been completed in the female nurses' quarters. It comprises bathrooms, sanitary conveniences, a drying room, a shampoo room and ironing room.

Redecorations have been carried out in many parts of the Institution, both externally and internally.

Large works worthy of mention are outside painting of the 26 cottages on the estate, and external painting of the front and west sides of the main building. The chief item of internal redecoration is the Recreation Hall redecorated in bright pleasing colours.

The Holiday Home at Walton-on-Naze has been undergoing extensive repairs during the whole year. The work is now complete and it is hoped the Home may re-open for the reception of patients in the Spring of 1950.

#### GENERAL HEALTH.

There was very little infectious disease until November, 1949, when three children contracted infantile paralysis. There was some general loss in weight of the patients in the latter part of the year. The extra rations over Christmas were most welcome and, as they are to continue, should stand the patients in good stead during the cold weather of early Spring.

There were 14 deaths, the average age at death being 43 years.

I wish to thank Mr. Pitt, Senior Surgeon and Superintendent of the Redhill County General Hospital, for his help in placing at our disposal his special departments for X-ray of patients, for the treatment of serious fractures and for operations of a major category.

#### DENTAL WORK.

Mr. H. Gabell, L.D.S., resigned and was replaced by Mr. K. A. Keith, L.D.S.

Mr. Gabell had been associated with Earlswood for many years. I am sure he was reluctant to resign, but with advancing years he found he had to curtail his activities.

The following is a record of the work done to 31st December, 1948 :—

104 patients had 162 extractions.  
 24 patients had 34 fillings.  
 32 patients had their teeth scaled.

For 1949 the record shows that :—

98 patients had 190 extractions.  
 27 patients had 36 fillings.  
 13 patients had their teeth scaled.  
 11 patients were fitted with dentures.

Every patient had a dental inspection twice during the year.

#### THE FARM.

The Summer drought seriously affected production. The root crops were affected most and the yields in all have been very light. The wheat and oats were gathered in ideal condition. Yields have been very satisfactory.

Milk production has been adversely affected by the dry pastures.

The plum, gooseberry and currant yield was below average.

The following were supplied to the Institution during 1949 :—

|   |    |    |    |    |    |                 |          |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------|----------|
| Milk  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 18,053          | gallons. |
| Eggs  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 46½             | dozen.   |
| Beetroot  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,944           | lbs.     |
| Swedes, greens, etc.                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 63,655          | lbs.     |
| Tomatoes  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,603           | lbs.     |
| Apples  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,339           | lbs.     |
| Potatoes  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 46 tons 13 cwt. |          |
| Other fruit and vegetables to the value of        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £297 9 10       |          |
| Coal carting was done by the Farm to the value of | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £1,086 0 0      |          |
| Other carting                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £123 0 0        |          |



## PATIENTS' ACTIVITIES.

Picnics and dances were held on the lawns in the summer months. During the winter from October till May a weekly entertainment was provided. These included pictures, whist drives, dances, concerts and musical evenings.

As far as possible every patient is provided with some occupation, however simple, according to his capabilities.

The Boys' Continuation School had on the register the names of 62 pupils.

Emphasis is laid on handwork.

Rug-making, envelope making, papier mâché work, chair-caning, simple basket work, and raffia work are practised.

For those of lower grade there is a percussion band and a wide variety of Montessori apparatus. Wool sorting into separate colours gives much pleasure to those with a mental age of approximately 5 years.

The workshops, including the bootshop, mat and upholsterer's shop, the printing office, and brush shop afford useful occupation for 40 patients.

The Farm and Garden, lawns and pleasure grounds, the kitchen and ward work give employment to 300 patients.

Two girls look after 12 poultry with commendable egg production.

## GENERAL.

Mr. Tompkins, schoolmaster, retired in July after 37 years' service. He was a loyal and conscientious officer to whom goes our best wishes in his retirement.

Mr. G. Berry, Deputy Charge Nurse, retired in the Spring after 33 years' service. It was with much regret that we heard of his death in October.

Mr. P. Worth, Chief Male Nurse, passed away after a serious illness. Mr. Worth had intended to retire at the end of the year on completion of 40 years' service. His death was a great shock to everyone who knew and respected him.

The Rev. J. B. Phillips conducted the Sunday services throughout the year. Communion services were held at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide.

The following nurses are to be congratulated on passing their examinations in 1949 :—

Male Nurses P. Fitzpatrick, R. Mees and J. Thrall passed the final examination of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

Nurses M. Duggan and M. Scanlon were successful in Parts I and II of the Preliminary examination of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Nurses M. Meehan and J. M. Barry and Male Nurses C. J. Nunn, F. G. Price, R. Moon passed Part I of the Preliminary examination of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

There have been many changes since the change-over to the National Health Service. These have meant much increased work for the staff. I am happy to say the spirit of service prevails.

With the willing co-operation of the staff, all difficulties have been overcome.

My thanks are due to the new Management Committee for much help and guidance.

H. R. FERGUSON,  
*Medical Superintendent.*

## FARMFIELD SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the report for the period 5th July, 1948 to 31st December, 1949.

### ACCOMMODATION.

The statutory accommodation is 161 beds, all for high grade adult male defectives of criminal propensity or intractable disposition. Nearly all the patients are received from the London area.

As will be seen from the statistical Table I appended to this report, the average daily number in residence is approximately 150. It is necessary always to hold a number of beds in reserve for the re-admission of patients 'absent without leave' and those who return from 'trial on licence.'

There are four Villas and a Hostel which allow a certain amount of segregation. Three of the Villas each accommodate approximately 40 patients, whilst the fourth and the Hostel each take approximately 20. All the Villas are 'open' except one which is used for the most difficult patients who must of necessity be closely supervised.

### ADMISSIONS.

The total number of admissions for the period under review is 50, details of which are set out in Table I.

### DISCHARGES.

28 patients were discharged from the Orders under the following circumstances :—

|  |    |
|--|----|
| By Board of Control after a period of trial on licence .. .. . | 20 |
| By Board of Control—no longer certifiable ..                   | 2  |
| By operation of law after escape .. .. .                       | 6  |



## LICENCES.

Details of patients on trial are shown below :—

|   | 6 months<br>ended<br>31.12.48 | 12 months<br>ended<br>31.12.49 |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| On trial on 5.7.1948— <b>63</b>           |                               |                                |
| Released on trial .. .. .                 | 14                            | 43                             |
| Discharged whilst on trial.. ..           | 8                             | 12                             |
| Transferred to Guardianship .. ..         | 1                             | —                              |
| Returned to Institution .. ..             | 9                             | 25                             |
| Committed to prison .. ..                 | —                             | 2                              |
| Escaped, not recaptured .. ..             | —                             | 2                              |
| Remaining on trial at 31.12.49— <b>61</b> |                               |                                |

The reasons for the return of patients to the Institution were :—

|  | 6 months<br>ended<br>31.12.48 | 12 months<br>ended<br>31.12.49 |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Failed to retain employment .. ..                                  | 1                             | 2                              |
| Unsatisfactory conduct .. ..                                       | 3                             | 2                              |
| Absconded, later recaptured .. ..                                  | 3                             | 5                              |
| Charged with offences .. ..  | —                             | 6                              |
| Ill health .. .. .   | 2                             | 2                              |
| Other causes—temporary licence,<br>redundancy of staff, etc. .. .. | —                             | 8                              |

The occupations of those patients on trial on 31.12.49 were :—

Employed for wages :—

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Living with relatives or in<br>lodgings .. .. . | 43 |
| In resident situations .. ..                    | 17 |
| In Agricultural Hostel .. ..                    | 1  |

Patients who have proceeded on licence total 57. This is slightly less than formerly, while the number of cases where trial has failed totals 26, under half the number sent.

## HEALTH.

The general health of the patients has been very good. One patient who was notified as suffering from tuberculosis on return from trial on licence is now deemed to be clear.

We have been fortunate in not having any serious outbreak of influenza or other complaint, probably due to the majority of our patients being able bodied and of fairly good physique, thus leading an active life.

There have been two or three cases where patients have caused injuries to other patients during quarrels, but nothing serious has resulted.

Four operations were performed, two for circumcision, one for hernia and one for removal of a tumour over the eye.

It is with much regret that I have to record the death of one patient by hanging. The Coroner's verdict at the inquest was 'Took his own life by hanging on 17.7.49 whilst of unsound mind.'

Dr. H. R. Ferguson, Medical Superintendent of the Royal Earlswood Institution, is Visiting Medical Officer and visits regularly once a week and more often when required, to carry out mental and physical examinations of all newly admitted patients and re-admissions, routine half-yearly examinations, also to attend patients suffering from physical ailments.

We are fortunate in having been grouped with the Royal Earlswood Institution inasmuch as opportunity has been afforded of immediate admission thereto of patients requiring hospital observation or treatment. There have been some 31 such cases.

#### DENTAL TREATMENT.

Mr. J. T. Cramp, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng. of Horley is Dental Surgeon to the Institution. Details of work carried out are as under:—

|                         |    |    |     |
|-------------------------|----|----|-----|
| Number of visits        | .. | .. | 13  |
| Number of patients seen | .. | .. | 233 |
| Extractions             | .. | .. | 180 |
| Scalings                | .. | .. | 11  |
| Gum treatment           | .. | .. | 6   |
| Repairs to dentures     | .. | .. | 10  |
| New dentures            | .. | .. | 1   |

All newly admitted patients are seen and examined at the next visit following their admission.

#### EYE TREATMENT.

Mr. F. J. Curtis, M.B., B.Ch., Physician and Surgeon of Redhill, is the eye specialist to the Institution. Details of work carried out are as under :—

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Number of visits .. ..     | 7  |
| Number of patients seen .. | 80 |
| Spectacles ordered ..      | 15 |
| Spectacles repaired ..     | 8  |

The supply and repair of spectacles are carried out by Mr. C. Brett, Optician, Redhill.

All newly-admitted patients are seen and examined at the next visit after their admission.

#### EMPLOYMENT AND INSTRUCTION.

An example of the daily employment register is as under :—

|   |    |                                  |    |
|---|----|----------------------------------|----|
| Domestic work in wards, etc. ..         | 12 | In Shoemaker's shop ..           | 5  |
| Sick .. ..                              | 4  | In Carpenter's shop ..           | 5  |
| On farm or with garden Instructors ..   | 15 | In Tailor's shop ..              | 7  |
| With Engineers ..                       | 6  | ON DAILY LICENCE :—              |    |
| In main kitchen ..                      | 7  | IN LOCAL DAILY                   |    |
| Messenger .. ..                         | 1  | EMPLOYMENT :—                    |    |
| VARIOUS WORKING                         |    | Domestic, Hotels and Cafes .. .. | 18 |
| PARTIES WITH NURSES :—                  |    | Farming and gardening            | 17 |
| In gardens, orchards, etc. .. ..        | 29 | Fish shop .. ..                  | 1  |
| Vegetable preparation shed .. ..        | 4  | Baker's shop .. ..               | 1  |
| Fuel distribution (wood and coal) .. .. | 7  | Coal merchants ..                | 3  |
| Cleaning hall, main corridor, etc. ..   | 11 | S.E. Gas Board ..                | 1  |
|   |    | Engineering works ..             | 1  |

While the instruction patients receive in the various workshops, gardens and farm forms a most useful part of the Institution curriculum and allows a period of time after admission for an assessment to be made as



to the defective's capabilities and character, it does not afford much opportunity to rehabilitate them at these trades. On the contrary it has been found that the limits of their attainments in such technical work as carpentering, tailoring, bootmaking, etc., do not allow them to be placed out in the world at those trades, although it is fully appreciated that the work carried out in these shops is of great value to them.

With this in mind, an endeavour has been made over a period of years to build up a scheme of Daily Licence, i.e., allowing patients to work outside the Institution without supervision. This has given them greater opportunities of becoming socialized and stabilized, and after a varying period lasting some months, consideration is given to placing the patient on trial on full licence. As will be seen from my remarks under 'Licences' this scheme has proved most satisfactory and successful.

#### STAFF.

We have been fortunate in maintaining nearly a full complement of Nursing Staff, but the serious drawback, looking at it as a long term policy, is the almost entire lack of recruitment of Student Nurses.

The total establishment of the Institution is 54, of whom 39 are nursing staff.

Toward the end of 1949 a Working Committee was set up comprised of three representatives of the nursing staff and one each from the Engineers, Domestics, Clerical and Instructors. I, as Superintendent, or my Deputy, attend each meeting in an advisory capacity only. This Committee met weekly at the onset, their business being to discuss matters concerning the welfare of the patients and staff.

I would like to express my appreciation of the continued co-operation, support and loyalty which has been given by the staff as a whole.

## MAINTENANCE, STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

General routine maintenance and repairs have been carried out as required.

The large amount of arrears at 5th July, 1948 of re-decoration work, both internal and external, has been given priority. The external paint work has been mostly dealt with and good headway has been made with the internal work. Finished work includes main kitchen, main corridor, carpenter's shop, staff cottages, staff sitting room and visitors' waiting room, and a commencement has been made on the Villas.

Structural alterations include :—

Building of a store to house the tractor and garden tools.

Erection of a pavilion on the Cricket Field.

Improvements include :—

An old store converted into a visitors' waiting room.

Installation of steam heating in the Chapel.

Installation of urinals in the Recreation Hall.

Installation of two extractor fans in the Recreation Hall.

Installation of two lavatories for staff and visitors.

Reconstruction of Engineer's store, office and lavatory.

Improved lighting over billiard tables in two Villas.

Installation of new Gaumont-Kalee 35 mm. film projector.

Lowering and re-building of chimney stacks.

Re-making of part of main drive.

The last three items were carried out by Contractors.

## GENERAL.

The Church of England Chaplain has held a regular weekday service in addition to Holy Communion once a month. Also those patients, who so desired, have attended morning service each Sunday at Charlwood, and Roman Catholic patients have attended their church in Horley. The total weekly average number of patients attending these services is 55.

Organised entertainments and games have been arranged. The Cricket team excelled themselves by winning 28 out of 32 matches last season.

The Annual Sports are of particular interest. Most of the patients look forward to and participate in them with great enthusiasm.

A prominent feature of Farmfield is the co-operation and support of so many local residents in our social functions. This is of great benefit to the Institution and patients in many ways, and a continuance of this valuable interest is to be sincerely desired.

The Institution was visited on 30th July, 1948 by Dr. I. G. H. Wilson, and on 14th July, 1949 by Dr. R. G. Anderson, Commissioners of the Board of Control.

On 5th July, 1948 the National Health Service Act came into operation and the management of the Institution passed from the London County Council Mental Hospitals Committee to that of the Ministry of Health operating through the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and the Royal Earlswood Hospital Management Committee, Farmfield Institution thus being grouped with the Royal Earlswood Institution in Group 43.

This change-over was effected in a very smooth and happy way, much of which was due to our good fortune in being grouped with the Royal Earlswood Institution, whose Medical Superintendent, Secretary and principal officers co-operated with us to the full and to whom we are greatly indebted.

In conclusion I would like to place on record my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Hospital Management Committee for their kind support, guidance and utmost consideration at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

S. E. DUDLEY,

*Superintendent.*



## TABLE I

## PATIENTS.

|   | 5.7.48     | 31.12.48   | 31.12.49   |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Resident .. ..                            | 147        | 141        | 147        |
| On Trial on Licence.. ..                  | 63         | 59         | 61         |
| Absent without leave<br>(absconded) .. .. | 16         | 15         | 18         |
| In Hospital .. ..                         | —          | 1          | 1          |
| On Holiday Leave .. ..                    | 2          | 9          | 6          |
| Total Number on Register ..               | <u>228</u> | <u>225</u> | <u>233</u> |

*From 5.7.48 12 months  
to 31.12.48 to 31.12.49*

|   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| Admitted under Orders .. ..                                   | 4   | 26  |
| Admitted from Rampton S.I. ..                                 | 2   | 4   |
| Admitted from other Institutions                              | 8   | 6   |
| Admitted on licence from Royal<br>Earlswood Institution .. .. | —   | 1   |
| Discharged from Order .. ..                                   | 13  | 15  |
| Transferred to Rampton S.I. ..                                | 3   | 2   |
| Transferred to other Institutions..                           | —   | 11  |
| Transferred to Guardianship ..                                | 1   | —   |
| Died under Order .. ..  | —   | 1   |
| Granted Leave on Trial .. ..                                  | 14  | 43  |
| Granted Holiday Leave .. ..                                   | 133 | 284 |

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEAD TEACHER

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the report on the work of the Mixed Schools and Handicraft Classes for the year 1949.

The numbers on the register were :—

|                    |       | <i>Girls.</i> | <i>Boys.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--------------------|-------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Senior School      | .. .. | 7             | 9            | 16            |
| Nursery School     | .. .. | 15            | 30           | 45            |
| Handicraft Classes | ..    | 36            | —            | 36            |
|                    |       | —             | —            | —             |
|                    |       | 58            | 39           | 97            |
|                    |       | ==            | ==           | ==            |

A year of steady work produced satisfactory results throughout the schools. Attendance was regular during most of the year. The requisite number of Teachers was available, so it was possible to give the individual attention which is always necessary in this special branch of teaching.

Miss Hess, who joined the Staff in January, left in September, in order to attend a special course of training arranged by the National Association for Mental Health. The vacancy thus caused was filled by Miss Tibbles. The post of Handicraft Teacher became vacant owing to Miss Walker's resignation, and the vacancy was filled by Miss Thomas. Mrs. Ingram joined the staff in February.

### SENIOR SCHOOL.

The children in this section are able to benefit from "Three R" work, and good progress was made in these subjects. Reading was taught by Phonetics, also the "Look and Say" method. Excellent apparatus is available for use in the teaching of this subject, and includes letters for word-building, "Chelsea" individual apparatus for word and sentence making, numerous simple story books, and pictures and words for matching. The latter, used in the form of a game, is very helpful

to beginners. Number is taught by means of the "Ten Set"—used for the four simple rules—"Montessori" number boxes, and cards with numbers and objects to correspond, also bricks and other objects. The value of money is also taught, and a shop provides an opportunity to use it.

Handwork included drawing, clay-modelling, paper-cutting, wool and raffia work on canvas (carried out in the form of dinner-mats, tea-cosies, shopping bags, etc.), basket-making, soft toys and attractive brooches and bracelets in plastic materials.

Oral lessons, eurhythmics, country dancing, percussion band, games and other exercises were taken throughout the year and thoroughly enjoyed.

Letters were written to parents at regular intervals.

#### NURSERY SCHOOL.

The work in this section for small children was continued on the usual simple lines—"McDowall" and "Montessori" work—for which good and varied apparatus is provided) and has shown a marked improvement. Games, physical exercises, simple eurhythmics and percussion band form part of the daily routine, and are entered into with enthusiasm. Children in the senior class continued to show interest in "Three R" work, and can now read small words, do a little word-building, and can match words and pictures. Writing and simple number were also continued. Short letters were written, and simple Christmas cards were made, and sent to parents.

The handwork consisted of ball-making, rug-work, raffia and wool work on canvas, drawing, clay-modelling, weaving and first lessons in knitting. The finished specimens included shopping bags, tea cosies and mats. During the year a concert was given by the Senior and Nursery Schools. This gave much pleasure to the other patients and also to the parents who attended.



## HANDICRAFTS.

The work in both Handicraft Classes showed a marked improvement in both quality and quantity. This consisted of plain and fancy needlework, darning, knitting (dishcloths, scarves, socks, bed-socks, cardigans, jumpers, gloves and slippers) rug-making, work on canvas with wool and raffia, felt work and the making of soft toys.

A number of girls can now work sewing machines, and a special room has been opened at Bridge House for this purpose.

Much useful work has been done, including simple garments and the making of stock for the linen room, such as sheets, towels, pillow cases, aprons, etc.

Physical exercises and games were taken daily, and an evening class each week for "keep-fit" exercises and country dancing.

Walks, shopping expeditions and visits to the Cinema and Pantomime were arranged and enjoyed.

Visitors to the Schools included the Commissioners of the Board of Control, Members of the Management Committee, Members of the Association of Parents of Backward Children, and groups of Students from the National Association for Mental Health and Bedford College.

In conclusion, I should like to express my thanks to the Members of the Management Committee and the Medical Superintendent for their interest and support throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

MABEL YEARSLEY,

*Head Teacher.*



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